

Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, February 1, 1801 , from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

TO JAMES MADISON J. MSS.

Feb. 1, 1801

I have not written to you since the letter by Mrs. B. Yours of Jan. 10 is received, and your own wishes are entirely acquiesced in as to time. Clermont has refused.¹ I think to adopt your idea at Baltimore.² I dare not through the channel of the post hazard a word to you on the subject of the election. Indeed the interception and publication of my letters exposes the republican cause as well as myself personally to so much obloquy that I have come to a resolution never to write another sentence of politics in a letter. The enclosed came under a blank cover to me, and I broke it open and read it through. Until I was folding it up to put away, I did not discover your name on the back of it, and consequently that it was destined for you. I hope your health is getting better. I think nothing more possible than that a change of climate, even from a better to a worse, and a change in the habits and mode of life, might have a favorable effect on your system. I shall be happy to hear that your father is rallying. The approaching season will be favorable for that. Present my respectful attachments to Mrs. Madison & accept affectionate assurances of friendship to yourself. Adieu.

¹ Robert R. Livingston.

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2 Samuel Smith.